

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1           1.     A telephone of the type including a control circuit adapted for detecting an  
2 incoming call; the telephone further comprising: an announcement unit for broadcasting a  
3 voice message indicative of an incoming call; and wherein the control circuit is adapted  
4 for activating the announcement unit in response to detecting an incoming call.

1           2.     The telephone of claim 1 wherein the telephone is a wireless telephone.

1           3.     The telephone of claim 1 wherein the telephone is a cellular telephone.

1           4.     The telephone of claim 1 wherein the announcement unit comprises a  
2 sound recorder and a microphone for recording messages.

1           5.     The telephone of claim 1 wherein the announcement unit comprises a sound  
2 player containing at least one prerecorded message.

1           6.     The telephone of claim 1 wherein the announcement unit comprises a  
2 digital sound recorder and a microphone for recording messages.

1           7.     The telephone of claim 1 wherein the announcement unit comprises a voice  
2 synthesizer unit and memory containing at least one stored message.

1           8.     A telephone system of the type including a control circuit adapted for  
2 detecting an incoming call; the telephone further comprising:

3           an announcement unit comprising broadcast means adapted for broadcasting a  
4 message indicative of an incoming call, and message storage means electronically  
5 connected to the broadcast means for broadcasting a voice message via the broadcast  
6 means; and

7           a control circuit adapted for activating the announcement unit in response to an  
8 incoming call, to broadcast a voice message via the broadcast means.

1           9.     A method for storing an announcement of, and announcing an incoming telephone  
2 call, comprising:

3           in a selected telephone, storing a message announcing incoming calls;

4           upon receipt of an incoming telephone call by the selected telephone, broadcasting  
5 the message via a speaker associated with the selected telephone, thereby announcing the  
6 telephone call.

1           10.    A method for storing and transmitting via a telephone network a message  
2 announcing an incoming telephone call, comprising:

3           in a telephone network, storing a message announcing an incoming call directed to  
4 a first telephone;

5           upon input of a call from a second telephone into the telephone network directed to  
6 the first telephone, electronically transmitting said message to the first telephone;

7           at the first telephone, broadcasting said message via a speaker associated with the  
8 selected telephone; and

9           completing the connection between the second telephone and the first telephone.

1       11.   A method for transmitting via a telephone network a message announcing an  
2 incoming call, comprising:

3           in a telephone network, electronically transmitting to a first telephone a voice  
4 message input at a second telephone;

5           broadcasting said message via a speaker associated with the first telephone; and

6           completing the connection between the second telephone and the first telephone.